

Region 7 Environmental Justice Action Plan FY2007-08

The mission of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is to protect human health and to safeguard the natural environment – air, water, and land – upon which life depends. EPA Region 7 is committed to providing fair treatment to all communities we serve accordingly, EPA Region 7 will ensure that environmental justice is incorporated into all environmental operations. This action plan was developed as a tool to assist step in determining the appropriate actions and their measurable outcomes to ensuring that environmental justice is addressed into all the environmental operations within the region.

Regional Characteristics - Region 7 encompasses 286,000 square miles covering the states of Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, and Nebraska. Also there are nine federally recognized tribes. Seven reside on reservations: Iowa, Kickapoo, Omaha, Potawatomi, Sac & Fox, Santee Sioux, and Winnebago. The Meskwaki also reside in the region, but on a Settlement. The Ponca reside on tribally owned land dispersed throughout four communities in Nebraska.

The regional topography varies from the arid high plains of western Kansas and Nebraska to the forested, sharp hills of the Ozark Plateau in Missouri, from the corn belt of Iowa to the Mississippi River floodplain lowlands of eastern Missouri. In 1997 USDA reported that the four states accounted for 302,699 farms covering 151,607,569 acres. Farm products include corn, wheat, soybeans, grain sorghum, cattle, and hogs.

Though the landscape is dominated by agriculturally dominated by agriculturally-related environmental challenges, the Region is not without urban concerns. Over half (56%) of the population of 12.9 million live within several metropolitan areas which include St. Louis, Kansas City, Omaha, Des Moines and Wichita. The metropolitan areas have traditional environmental challenges associated with urban centers: industry, municipal services, transportation, urban sprawl, air attainment, and energy production. In addition, the Region contains hundreds of small, communities with populations below 5,000 (90% of communities in Nebraska are under 2,500). Thus there are the accompanying issues of declining tax bases and old infrastructures, limited access to health care, contamination of private water wells, lead mining contamination, and attaining clean water standards for water treatment and water supply systems.

Eight national environmental justice priorities which are:

1. Reduce Asthma Attacks
2. Reduce Exposure to Air Toxics
3. Ensure Fish and Shellfish are Safe to Eat
4. Ensure Water is Safe to Drink
5. Revitalize Brownfields and Contaminated Sites
6. Reduce Incidence of Elevated Blood Lead Levels
7. Ensure Compliance
8. Collaborative Problem Solving

The national environmental justice priorities are all relevant to region 7 communities. While the environmental justice priorities identify specific environmental and health related concerns along with approaches to addressing them, the region 7 priorities help us to separate the total regional universe of concerns within the region and to group them in a manner which will allow focused and measurable work.

Organization of the action plan matrix - The Region 7 Environmental Justice Action Plan is organized consistent with the Agency Strategic Plan utilizing the five goal structure of: Goal 1 - Clean Air, Goal - 2 Clean and Safe Water, Goal 3 - Preserve and Restore the Land, Goal - 4 Healthy Communities and Ecosystems, and Goal 5 - Compliance and Environmental Stewardship. A sixth goal, Cross-Cutting Strategies, has been added to include internal capacity building activities such as training and internal program management.

- **Objectives** include any of the 8 national environmental justice priorities or other priorities identified by the region.
- **Activities** include any action undertaken in order to address an objective.
- **Outputs** describe the direct results of an activity. Output measures answer, quantitatively, the question: What was accomplished under each activity?
- **Outcomes** provide a description of the impacts resulting from an activity. Outcome measures answer the question: What impacts did the out/put activities have/make relevant to public health and/or the environment?

**Environmental Justice Action Plans
(CY2007-FY2008)**

Goal 1: Clean Air and Global Climate Change

Objective 1: Reduction in number of asthma attacks (e.g., reduce asthma triggers such as particulate matter)

Activities	Output	Applicable Outcome Measure ¹		
		Short-term (awareness)	Intermediate (behavior)	Long-term (condition)
Develop action plans and implementation strategies that will result in a reduction of asthma triggers in homes through air toxics and asthma triggers education. Promote community awareness and capacity to manage health air issues.	Participate in asthma coalitions, promote pledge campaign in asthma initiatives, and distribute clean air cleaning kits.	<p>Increase awareness of impacted populations re: asthma and asthma triggers</p> <p>Increased capacity by local service providers to manage health and air issues</p>	Households take actions to reduce asthma triggers in the home.	Reduced human exposure to indoor environmental asthma triggers

¹ All three outcomes may not apply for every activity.

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Goal 1: Clean Air and Global Climate Change

Objective 2: Reduce exposure to air toxics (e.g., reduce releases of mercury)

Activities	Output	Applicable Outcome Measure		
		Short-term (awareness)	Intermediate (behavior)	Long-term (condition)
<p>1. Continue to work with Missouri Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) and the St. Louis community to implement ozone and fine particulate reduction measures consistent with EPA's 8-hour ozone standard implementation rules to bring St. Louis back into compliance with the standard.</p> <p>2. Continue to work with the state of Missouri to promote alternative fuels and innovative emission reduction strategies such as diesel retrofits.</p> <p>3. Retrofit diesel school buses.</p>	<p>St. Louis area has improving air quality.</p> <p>Health effects from high ozone and fine particulate levels reduced.</p> <p>2.6 million People in St. Louis metropolitan area breathe air having an 8-hour ozone concentration of less than 0.08 ppm.</p>	<p>MDNR and St. Louis officials demonstrate commitment to achieve 8-hour ozone standard</p>	<p>MDNR and St. Louis officials take steps to implement plan to comply with EPA's 8-hour ozone standard (i.e. retrofit diesel school buses)</p>	<p>Air quality monitoring data demonstrates that the St. Louis area has attained the 8-hour ozone standard by the appropriate date.</p> <p>(The attainment dates depend upon structure of the final implementation rule and could be either 2007 or 2009.)</p>

Activities	Output	Applicable Outcome Measure		
		Short-term (awareness)	Intermediate (behavior)	Long-term (condition)
Continue to work with MDNR and the Kansas City community to implement ozone reduction measures consistent with EPA's 8-hour ozone standard implementation rule to bring Kansas City back into compliance with the standard.	<p>Kansas City area has improving air quality.</p> <p>Health effects from high ozone levels are reduced.</p> <p>1.776 million People in Kansas City metropolitan area breathe air having an 8-hour ozone concentration of less than 0.08 ppm.</p>	MDNR and Kansas City officials demonstrate commitment to achieve 8-hour ozone standard	MDNR and Kansas City officials take steps to implement plan to comply with EPA's 8-hour ozone standard (i.e. retrofit diesel school buses)	Air quality monitoring data demonstrates that the Kansas City area has attained the 8-hour ozone standard by the appropriate date. (The attainment dates depend upon structure of the final implementation rule and could be either 2007 or 2009.)
Work with the nine Tribal Nations in Region 7 on air issues. Award grant funding to support air related activities.	Tribes are conducting outreach, emission inventories, acquiring air quality training, and participating with EPA in air quality activities.	Improved knowledge, understanding and ability to address air quality issues by Tribes.	Implement Tribal air grant projects	Improved air quality in Indian country.

Activities	Output	Applicable Outcome Measure		
		Short-term (awareness)	Intermediate (behavior)	Long-term (condition)
Region 7 will secure at least two diesel retrofit projects in Kansas City or St. Louis by end of 2006.	By 2007, Missouri will submit state implementation plan to address the St. Louis non-attainment area PM 2.5.	Select and award diesel retrofit projects	Implement retrofit projects	By 2009, St. Louis will attain the PM 2.5 standard which will mean that 2.6 million people breathe cleaner air.

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Goal 2: Clean and Safe Water

Objective 1: Safe fish/shellfish

Activities	Output	Applicable Outcome Measure		
		Short-term (awareness)	Intermediate (behavior)	Long-term (condition)
By 2008, the quality of water and sediments will be improved to allow increased consumption of fish in not less than 3% of the water miles/acres identified by States/Tribes as having a fish consumption advisory in 2002. (2002 Baseline: 485,205 river miles and 11,277,276 lake acres were identified by States/Tribes in 2002 as having fish with chemical contamination levels resulting in an advisory of potential human health risk from consumption.)	By 2008, fish tissue will be assessed to support water body-specific or regional consumption advisories or a determination will be made that no contamination advice is necessary for at least 40% of lake acres and 20% of river miles.	Work with Tribal environmental programs to increase awareness regarding fish advisory guidance.	By 2008, EPA will assist and support the development of a tribal fish advisory program so that at least one Tribe will have adopted and applied the national fish advisory guidance to make fish advisory determinations for local waters.	By 2008, the quality of water in sediments will be improved to allow increased consumption of fish in not less than 3% of water miles/acres identified by states or tribes as having a fish consumption advisory in 2002

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Goal 2: Clean and Safe Water
Objective 2: Clean and safe drinking water

Activities	Output	Applicable Outcome Measure		
		Short-term (awareness)	Intermediate (behavior)	Long-term (condition)
Conduct Tribal water system sanitary surveys.	Inspection and compliance assistance to Tribal water systems.	Inspection of Tribal water systems	Compliant Tribal sanitary sewer systems	By 2008, 95% of the population served by community water systems in Indian Country will receive drinking water that meets all applicable health-based drinking water standards.

Activities	Output	Applicable Outcome Measure		
		Short-term (awareness)	Intermediate (behavior)	Long-term (condition)
By 2015, in coordination with other Federal Agencies, reduce by 50% the number of households on tribal lands lacking access to safe drinking water.	By 2008, identify water used by Community Water Systems as a source of drinking water for which States/Tribes, have wherever, adopted attainable water quality standards with public water supply as designated use, or for which States/Tribes have adopted water quality standards that provide an equivalent level of human health protection.			Improved access to safe drinking water
By 2008, the percentage of the population served by community water systems that receive drinking water that meets health-based standards with which systems need to comply as of December 2001 will be 95% (Baseline: 93.6% of the population).	By 2008, the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) fund utilization rate will reach 86%.	Number of DWSRF projects that have initiated operations.	The percentage of DWSRF loan agreements made annually that will return community water systems to compliance.	Increase in communities receiving drinking water which meets health-based standards.

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Goal 4: Healthy Communities and Ecosystems
Objective 1: Reduction in elevated blood lead levels

Activities	Output	Applicable Outcome Measure		
		Short-term (awareness)	Intermediate (behavior)	Long-term (condition)
Lead and Indoor Air Quality. Incorporate EJ data, concepts, and approaches into lead inspections, compliance assistance, education and outreach efforts: < Health Department Collaboration < Region 7 School Outreach Project < Strategic Lead Enforcement Rule in high-risk communities project < DOJ Weed & Seed Program	Environmental results in 100 high risk areas, reduced risk in 100 acres.	Measurements will be based upon # of outreach opportunities, # of participants, # of phone calls responded to, and # of technical assistance.	Initiate projects and partnerships to take steps towards reducing exposure to lead	Reduce public exposure to lead based paint hazards through education and outreach.

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Goal 4: Healthy Communities and Ecosystems

Objective 2: Collaborative problem-solving to address environmental justice issues

Activities	Output	Applicable Outcome Measure		
		Short-term (awareness)	Intermediate (behavior)	Long-term (condition)
Conduct EJ Listening Sessions	Conduct at least one EJ Listening Session per year in Region 7.	Increased community awareness of EPA activities and better understanding of environmental issues and decisions which affect them.	Citizens are able to provide input on EJ or environmental issues of concern in their community.	Better informed public regarding environmental and health issues.
1. Mapping of Sites/Communities requested by programs. 2. Mapping to determine regional priority EJ areas.	Proactive focus on potential environmental justice concerns.	Proactive identification of EJ priorities for the Region.	Improved public involvement.	Prevention of EJ concerns.

Activities	Output	Applicable Outcome Measure		
		Short-term (awareness)	Intermediate (behavior)	Long-term (condition)
<p>Conduct EJ Assessments</p> <p>Respond to community complaints and/or concerns.</p> <p>EJSEAT will be utilized as the region's primary methodology for conducting EJ screens within the region.</p> <p>EJ Assessments will be consistent with the EJ Toolkit</p>	<p>Complete full EJ Assessment Screen for 100% of EJ complaints.</p> <p>Complete EJ Assessment Screens for 95% of requests.</p>	<p>Increased knowledge and understanding of potential EJ concerns.</p>	<p>Increased capacity of internal EPA staff regarding the identification and assessment of potential and actual EJ areas.</p>	<p>Early addressing of EJ issues and increased awareness of EJ in environmental laws.</p>
<p>Ivanhoe Neighborhood Council - Ivanhoe Reduction Hazardous Waste/Toxic Substances Project</p>	<p>The Ivanhoe Neighborhood Council developed a very extensive strategic plan in 2000. The plan is divided into five areas, one of which is beautification. Responsibility for implementation of the plan is assigned to a committee, composed of Ivanhoe residents and partners.</p>	<p>Increased awareness in community regarding proper waste disposal and the affects on human health and the environmental when improper disposal occurs.</p>	<p>Provide outdoor trash containers, dumpsters, tire pickups and organized block clean-ups to reduce the amount of hazardous waste/toxic substances.</p>	<p>Reduce the amount of improperly disposed trash;</p>

Activities	Output	Applicable Outcome Measure		
		Short-term (awareness)	Intermediate (behavior)	Long-term (condition)
Sister's Together, Inc. - Omaha Chapter, Take it to the Street	A research project addressing the hazards of lead exposure which provide health services in the community.	NA	NA	Take it to the Street will determine the knowledge base of residents regarding the hazards of lead exposure and Superfund activities

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Goal 4: Healthy Communities and Ecosystems

Objective 3: Revitalization of brown fields and contaminated sites

Activities	Output	Applicable Outcome Measure		
		Short-term (awareness)	Intermediate (behavior)	Long-term (condition)
EPA will continue to work in partnership with State response programs, communities, other Federal programs and other public and private organizations to address Brownfields properties.	By 2008, provide funding to eligible recipients and working with our State and Tribal partners and other partners.	Assess and promote the cleanup and reuse of Brownfields properties.	Leveraging 2,359 jobs and \$714 million in cleanup and redevelopment funding.	Reduced # of contaminated sites and increased reuse of Brownfields properties reducing the risk to public health and increase in economic viability.

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Goal 5: Compliance and Environmental Stewardship

Objective 1: Ensure Compliance

Activities	Output	Applicable Outcome Measure		
		Short-term (awareness)	Intermediate (behavior)	Long-term (condition)
Include environmental justice as targeting criteria for Underground Storage Tanks (UST) inspections.	Inspections at facilities in potential EJ areas.	Incorporate EJ as targeting criteria	Conduct EJ screens of potential inspection targets	Protection of ground-water and populations in/around impacted areas.
Provide leadership, guidance and oversight of State/Tribal worker safety activities, including implementation of Worker Protection Standards (WPS) and the certification and training programs for pesticide applicators.	State/Tribal participation in successful pesticide inspector workshops.	Review all new pesticide applicator training manuals to ensure they adequately address required items.	Participate in national worker safety work groups, conference calls and meetings.	Increased number of States/Tribes implementing WPS, certification and training programs for pesticide applicators.

Activities	Output	Applicable Outcome Measure		
		Short-term (awareness)	Intermediate (behavior)	Long-term (condition)
Integrate methodology of EJ SEAT into inspection and compliance targeting and prioritization. Continue targeting of RCRA, NPDES, AIR, 1018 lead disclosure form inspections and expand to include additional program areas such as Sanitary Sources, SPCC, TSCA, PCB, EPCRA Spill reporting, TRI, and Chemical Accident Prevention.	By 2008, integrate EJ SEAT methodology and resulting analysis into the factors considered in planning and selecting inspection and compliance targets for the following fiscal year.	Include EJ where appropriate into targeting protocol	Conduct EJ screens of all potential inspection targets.	Improved environmental protection in potentially high risk areas.

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Cross Cutting Strategies:

Objective: Internal Capacity Building (e.g., internal program management)

Activities	Output	Applicable Outcome Measure		
		Short-term (awareness)	Intermediate (behavior)	Long-term (condition)
<p>Coordinate integration of EJ into regional program activities.</p> <p>Review and revise, as necessary, the Regional Interim EJ Policy.</p>	<p>By 2008, revised Regional EJ Guidance document which includes strategic steps for integration of EJ into programs including inspection targeting, enforcement, compliance assistance and permitting.</p>	<p>Increased awareness of EJ concerns among regional staff</p>	<p>Increase number of program activities which routinely include EJ considerations in their process.</p>	<p>Improved environmental and health conditions in those communities with the greatest environmental and health-related concerns.</p>
<p>Support Omaha Lead Cleanup Team at the Superfund Asarco Site in Omaha, NE.</p>	<p>Continue the cleanup of contaminated soil in Eastern Omaha Nebraska with a priority on properties at which children may be exposed.</p>	<p>Conduct outreach and education in the affected community to increase awareness</p>	<p>Clean-up contaminated properties.</p>	<p>Reduced public exposure to lead hazards.</p>

Activities	Output	Applicable Outcome Measure		
		Short-term (awareness)	Intermediate (behavior)	Long-term (condition)
NEPA - Provide analysis of proposed actions through NEPA EIS review process to consider potential EJ concerns.	Consistent review and timely comments resulting in the addressing of EJ concerns.	Increased knowledge and awareness regarding responsibility to assess EJ concerns in EIS's by Federal agencies and NEPA staff.	Provide 100% review within time constraints, ensuring compliance with Executive Orders to include EJ, children's health and Farmland Policy Act.	Reduction of potential negative impacts of Federal projects on disadvantaged populations
Conduct additional meetings to further promote internal program integration/coordination between EJ and programs. Revitalize the Environmental Justice Implementation Team (EJIT).	By mid-2008, will have met with each Division explore additional EJ and program linkages which might be areas for further program integration.	Provide for more consistent method (i.e. therefore more likely to happen method) of integrating EJ into routine program activities.	Increase no. of actions to address EJ in regional programs.	Expand areas where EJ is integrated into programs.

Activities	Output	Applicable Outcome Measure		
		Short-term (awareness)	Intermediate (behavior)	Long-term (condition)
Explore mechanisms to provide third party education (i.e. similar to TAB/TOSC program in OSWER) to communities on various environmental programs and processes in order to enhance meaningful public involvement.	Identify at least one mechanism that may be used.	The public will have a better understanding of environmental issues, regulations and processes so that they can understand the material that they are being given an opportunity to comment on during public comment periods.	More public involvement and more meaningful public involvement	Increased meaningful involvement in environmental decision-making

Activities	Output	Applicable Outcome Measure		
		Short-term (awareness)	Intermediate (behavior)	Long-term (condition)
Help R7 communities build capacity to address environmental issues while meeting economic and social needs through grants, program activities and technical activities.	Increase community involvement, decrease of childhood lead poisoning through outreach and education.	<p>Declining rates of asthma and lead poisoning in communities.</p> <p>Steady decline in # of contaminated sites/homes.</p> <p>Steady decline in # of contaminated drinking water supplies.</p> <p>Yearly increase in # of communities with HHW and SW recycling programs.</p> <p>Yearly reduction of communities out of compliance with air quality standards.</p> <p>Yearly growth in # of communities with local environmental improvement initiatives.</p>	Implement grant projects which build capacity to address environmental issues by local communities.	Improved environmental quality in areas with greatest environmental problems

Activities	Output	Applicable Outcome Measure		
		Short-term (awareness)	Intermediate (behavior)	Long-term (condition)
<p>EJ Communication</p> <p>1. EJ Update</p> <p>2. EJ Website maintenance</p> <p>3. EJ Correspondence maintenance</p>	<p>Produce at least one issue of the EJ Update annually.</p> <p>Update EJ website, as needed.</p> <p>Maintain and manage EJ correspondence (electronic email distribution list, hard-copy mailing list)</p>	<p>Increase the awareness of EJ stakeholders with regards to regional EJ issues and events.</p>	<p>Increased actions to address EJ concerns by stakeholders from multiple sectors.</p>	<p>Improved environmental conditions in those communities with the greatest environmental problems.</p>
<p>EJ Community Activities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Missouri Black Expo • Garden City Multi-Cultural Conference • Fiesta Hispana and/or Heartland Latino Leadership Conference • Speaking Engagements/Conferences/Lectures 	<p>Host informational booths and/or outreach activities.</p>	<p>Increase the awareness of EJ stakeholders with regards to regional EJ issues and events.</p> <p>Increased public involvement</p> <p>Reduced adversely affected disadvantaged populations.</p>	<p>Increased actions by affected populations to address environmental and health-related problems</p>	<p>Improved environmental quality for those community which suffer from the greatest environmental impacts</p>

Activities	Output	Applicable Outcome Measure		
		Short-term (awareness)	Intermediate (behavior)	Long-term (condition)
<p>EJ Training Conduct at least one “Fundamentals of Environmental Justice” training course to internal and/or external groups (i.e. Superfund EJ Training, training to R7 Tribes, etc.)</p> <p>Promote electronic “Fundamentals of EJ” training course.</p> <p>Research opportunities to host EJ training in conjunction with other multi-cultural, environmental, or involvement events.</p>		<p>Increased awareness of EJ history, principals and available tools such that the audience has an increased ability to integrate EJ considerations into their daily responsibilities.</p>	<p>Increased activities to address EJ by individuals who complete EJ training.</p> <p>Greater community involvement in environmental decision-making</p>	<p>Improved environmental quality in potential EJ areas</p> <p>Increased meaningful involvement in decision-making</p>

Activities	Output	Applicable Outcome Measure		
		Short-term (awareness)	Intermediate (behavior)	Long-term (condition)
<p>1. Conduct EJ Federal Partners Meetings</p> <p>2. Work with other Federal/State/Local partners in the region to establish and form a collaborative partnership that can address specific EJ concerns in the region.</p> <p>3. Coordinate and communicate with States and Tribes on EJ issues and concerns.</p>	<p>Conduct a least one EJ Federal Partners Meetings annually.</p> <p>Create partnership and identify as least one Interagency Working Group (IWG) project.</p> <p>Host at least one meeting with each State and Tribe annually to discuss EJ issues and processes.</p>	<p>Increase knowledge of other federal partners of EJ activities. Formulate and establish a network that can be leveraged to benefit EJ communities.</p> <p>Better informed EPA, State, and Tribal partners.</p>	<p>Increased involvement of State and Tribal governments and other Federal agencies in addressing potential EJ concerns.</p>	<p>Well-coordinated responses to address potential EJ concerns by all levels of government.</p>
<p>Identify opportunities to increase/enhance EJ integration.</p>	<p>Incorporate/enhance EJ as a component in each State's PPA/PPG agreements.</p>	<p>Expanded State knowledge and understanding of EJ principles and processes.</p>	<p>Increased commitment by States to address potential EJ concerns</p>	<p>Improved env. Conditions in potential EJ areas</p>

Activities	Output	Applicable Outcome Measure		
		Short-term (awareness)	Intermediate (behavior)	Long-term (condition)
Provide technical assistance to R7 Tribes to assess the condition of their environment, to help build capacity and to implement programs on Tribal lands.	Establishment of common goals among federal agencies and individual Tribes.	Increase in collaboration with Tribes	Increased Tribal participation in environmental training.	Improved environmental and human health protection. Improved Tribal environmental program and capacity to respond to community issues and concerns.

Activities	Output	Applicable Outcome Measure		
		Short-term (awareness)	Intermediate (behavior)	Long-term (condition)
<p>EJ Grants Award and manage EJ Small Grants (EJSG) to local community-based groups.</p> <p>Plan, coordinate, and host Region 7 Small Grants workshop.</p> <p>Assist/support other programs in their grant review process.</p>	<p>Distribute information on grant opportunities via email, mail, conference calls, and outreach events (e.g. Missouri Black Expo, Migrant Farm workers, etc.)</p> <p>Participate in national grant conference calls and meetings. Review and comment on policy and guidance.</p> <p>Annually hold regional small grants workshop.</p>	<p>Provide outreach and information to communities on grant opportunities including the CPS grant program.</p> <p>Participate in development of regional grant policy and procedures as part of the Grants Customer Relations Council (GCRC).</p>	<p>Participate in EJ Grant policy development.</p>	<p>Communities are able to address environmental and human health issues while building capacity to address community issues</p>